CHAPTER IV

THE DESERTED VALLEY

As has been said, the newcomer's first impression of Tahiti is of mountains climbing gently but irresistibly into the soft Cambridge blue of Pacific skies. Steaming up the channel between Moorea and Tahiti from Australk, Moorea is fantastic, jagged, sharp, as likely as not only wreathed with mist, but Tahiti's long swelling slopes descend % almost always to the fringe of flat land (studded with coconuts) from masses of thick cloud. Most mornings I am out on the red before the sun lights upon it in order that I may look up at those x slopes. From the distance of a mile or so they seem smooth green ridged undulations inviting